

Risk Alert



Listening. Learning. Leading.®

Preventing Injuries to Educators and Aides

Every year, Church Mutual customers report more than 4,000 injuries to their employees. One occupation needing specific risk management attention is educators and aides.

Employees in this category include day care staff, school teachers, after-school teachers and aides. Past claims provide insight into key safety issues to help prevent similar injuries. Use the following guidelines to help evaluate, develop and implement good risk management practices and procedures for educators and aides:

Most frequent and costly injuries to educators and aides	% Total Claims	% Total Cost
Slips, Trips and Falls	50.2%	63.9%
Strains	20.9%	22.1%
Struck by/Collision With	19.1%	8.8%

Based on 2010 - 2011 workers' compensation claims for religious organizations

Slips, Trips and Falls on Level Surfaces

- Maintain clean classroom areas and walking surfaces to help eliminate slip-and-fall exposures.
- Arrange classroom furniture and supplies to minimize slip-and-fall hazards.
- Make wearing slip-resistant footwear a policy for all staff.
- Designate places to store book bags, backpacks and coats to help eliminate tripping hazards.
- Establish procedures for handling snow- or ice-covered sidewalks and parking lots.

Slips, Trips and Falls Due to Liquids

- Have mops and other materials available to immediately clean up spills in classrooms or hallways.
- Make housekeeping a priority. Educators and aides must maintain clean and organized classrooms.
- Have proper floor mats in place at critical entrance areas, especially during periods of inclement weather.
- Place "Wet Floor" signs where slip-and-fall hazards exist.

Twisting Strains

- Avoid long periods of working in an awkward position.
- Conduct ergonomic evaluations of classrooms and teaching aids.
- Provide chairs, desks and other classroom equipment with adjustable options and controls.
- Provide material-handling equipment, such as carts, to limit lifting and carrying objects.

Struck by or Collision With Objects

- Design the layout of halls, rooms and aisleways to allow smooth traffic flow.
- Establish procedures for inspecting and maintaining equipment.
- Provide specialized training to handle situations involving disruptive students.
- Mark or pad obstructions that cannot be removed to help reduce the possibility of direct contact or injury if contact occurs.

Gain quick access to safety materials at www.churchmutual.com. Order, download or print any of Church Mutual's safety materials at no cost.